



Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use

2015-2016 School Year

Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd

Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide



Waukesha County, through its Department of Parks and Land Use, continues to foster the protection, wise use, enhancement, and enjoyment of the County's cultural and natural resources, and the health of its citizens. We have created a School Guide of environmental education opportunities to help engage businesses, citizens and visitors in achieving this objective.

The environmental education opportunities presented in this School Guide seek to:

- Increase the amount of material recycled from households and businesses to reduce taxpayer cost.
- Create opportunities for citizens to explore the outstanding natural resources in the Waukesha County Park System.
- Collaborate with School Districts in the County to offer a variety of science-based educational opportunities to meet curriculum requirements and enhance the quality of life in the County.
- Protect and enhance the quality of the County's lakes and streams by informing citizens on how property management decisions impact water quality.
- Protect the quantity and quality of the groundwater resources in the County by promoting water conservation and groundwater infiltration.

I hope you take part in the opportunities available throughout this Activity Guide and help us keep Waukesha County a great place to live, work and play.

Paul Farrow,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Paul Farrow in black ink.

Waukesha County Executive

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This booklet is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

www.waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd



Contact Retzer Nature Center at 262-970-6680 for further details and availability of the following programs.

Experience your choice of programs in a single visit! Whether it's land, water, resource management or outer space, get double the experience without double the cost!

Need help planning your field trip experience? Our staff is ready to help create a program package to suit your needs. Come enjoy this year's new programs!

Free Recycling and Water Resources programs held at Retzer! See pages 14-16.

Field Trips

Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Reservations for 2016 programs begin 9/1/2015

A 21 day lead-time is required to book all programs held at Retzer. Since your program has been specifically booked for your group (date, program, time, etc), fees must be paid 21 days before program date. If booking a program 21 days or less from the program date, payment is due at the time of the booking. We accept credit card payments over the phone.

Program Fees at Retzer Nature Center: (21 day lead-time required)

Program Fee:	Chaperones: (Attend for free)	
1 Hour Program Base Fee: \$22.50	Students	Chaperones
Up to first 10 students, then	≤ 10	2
\$2.25 per student	11-20	3
1.5 Hour Program Base Fee: \$35.00	21-30	4
Up to first 10 students, then	Etc.	
\$3.50 per student		

Retzer Nature Center's Cancellation Policy

If payment is not received at least 21 days in advance, the program will be cancelled.

If you cancel a program within 21 days of the program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the program fee, or issue a credit instead of a refund. Credit must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Nature Storytime Hike

Grades 4K - 1

1 hour

(1.5 hours with craft added)

This program is all about reading and roaming! Teachers will select a seasonal storytime program, and our naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike designed to complement the season.

September – November:

Trees, Seeds, Nuts, and Leaves

Autumn is a wonderful time to experience the leaves changing their colors and the bountiful seeds and nuts from our majestic trees. Crunch and stomp along the trails as you learn about the changes fall brings to our forests.

Turtle Time

Learn about the life of the Box Turtle. See where and how they spend their days. What do they eat? Where do they hide? Meet our resident Box Turtles during your program.

Hike & Seek - Camouflage

Discover how animals use color to hide from sight while they go about their daily routines. Play a game of hide and seek as we try to blend in like the animals do.

Counting on Colors

Join the naturalist on a colorful exploration of the trails. Children will hunt for natural objects that complement a variety of colors on this rainbow adventure.

December – March:

Add snowshoes to your program for an additional \$2.75 per student with a maximum of 30 students.

Sleepy Time

Learn about hibernation as the animals settle in for a long winter nap. Where will they sleep? What goes on outside as they slumber away the days?

Footprints in the Snow

Winter is here and someone has left footprints in the snow. Whose could they be? Learn about the special tracks and signs our winter animals leave behind.

The Big Chill

Discover the wonders that appear during winter. From a snowflake falling to the ice on the pond and the slumbering landscape, we will bundle up and explore the frosty forest.

April – June:

Spring has Sprung

This program is a celebration of spring! Explore the signs of life in the spring as we look for caterpillars, tadpoles, flowers, and birds while we hike on the trails.

Heads or Tails

Learn all about animals from the tops of their heads all the way down to the tips of their tails. This program offers a unique way to examine animals and how each of their senses allows them to survive and have fun in their environment. In this program, the kids will have a chance to meet many of our resident, teaching animals!

Hip Hop 'N Frogs (May - June)

Discover what life is like for our aquatic friends, the frogs. Learn about their unique way of life; how does a frog eat, sleep and breathe in its wet world?

Diary of a Worm

Turn yourself into a worm as we explore their damp, dark world below ground. How do they make the flowers and plants grow? Uncover a couple to hold and examine up close.

I Spy the Pond

(Available May to June - 30 students maximum)

Grades 4K-1

1 hour

Explore a water world by playing our version of the game "I Spy." Meet cool creatures who call the pond muck home. Learn about the adaptations and features they possess to live in this watery world.

I Spy Bugs

(Available Sept., Oct., May & June)

Grades 4K-1

1 hour

Join our naturalists as we play "I Spy" to uncover a world of insects. Students will "sweep" down and under during this hands-on adventure, exploring the unusual habitats of our 6-legged friends.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Nature Discovery

Grades K-3

1 hour

Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while children seek out and explore natural treasures.

ALPHABET SLEUTHS

Discover nature objects for each letter of the alphabet. A group collection will be made of each "ABC" found.

SILLY SENSES

Enjoy an exploration of smells, sights, sounds, and textures. We add a twist, discovering new ways to use our senses to explore nature.

A TREASURE HUNT!

Go on a treasure hunt as we wander the trails at the Nature Center. Using clues found along the way, uncover an abundance of natural objects and discover their value as we collect our bounty.

(Planetarium combination program options for this age group: Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, The Sky Tonight, or Our Place in Space.)

Creature Features / Animal Adaptions – Indoor Talk

Grades 4K-8

1 hour

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation. (Program appropriately designed for your grade level.)

Home Sweet Habitat

Grades 1-6

1.5 hours

Explore wildlife habitats from the viewpoint of the animals that live there. Students will play the role of an animal as they go in search of their animal's basic survival needs for food, water, cover, and space. Finally decide which animal would call a given location their "home sweet habitat."

Catchable Critters

(Available Sept., May & June)

Grades 2-8

1.5 or 2 hours

Students connect with the insect world through the use of sweep nets, guide books, and bug boxes as they investigate various sampling techniques and compare insect communities. Naturalists assist students in identifying and examining the unique adaptations these critters display.

What Lurks in the Water?

(Available May to June - 30 students maximum)

Grades 2-8

1.5 hours

Scoop up a net full of pond muck and pick your way through to discover the unusual creatures in the pond. Students investigate pond ecology through interactive observation, temperature readings, and an in-depth study of aquatic organisms.

Mud Risk: High (come prepared).

Branching Out - Tree ID

Grades 3-6

1.5 hours

Through an interactive program students will learn how to identify various trees by their appearances and features. Students will hike through the forest and oak savanna habitats and identify different trees along the way as well as determine their functions and uses in everyday life.

Snowshoe Trekking

(Available January, February & early March)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Don't let winter get you down. Learn how to snowshoe as our naturalists show cool outdoor treasures waiting for your class! Learn about nature in winter as you trek the hills and valleys of Retzer.

Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Tracks, Scat, and Other Wild Stuff

(Available January, February, & March)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

2 hours with snowshoes - Additional \$2.75 per student for snowshoe rental.

Animals leave behind a number of clues for us to find as we explore our winter world. Start indoors with a slideshow on animal tracks and evidence of their adventures, and then venture outdoors to hunt for some of these winter clues.

Prairie by Design

(Available September to October)

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

The beautiful autumn prairie is a place of wonder and discovery. Customize a prairie program to fit your curriculum requirements.

Select up to 3 activities per program from the following options:

- * Prairie Plant Design: Shape, size, and textures
- * Seeds On the Move: Seed dispersal
- * Roots: How deep do they go?
- * Prairie Wildlife: Animals and insects of the prairie
- * Below Ground Construction: A recipe for soil
- * Prairie Plant Adaptations: Cool facts and amazing stuff

Wilderness Explorers

Grades 3-8

1.5 hours

In this creative program, students assume the roles of early Wisconsin explorers, experiencing the wilderness for the very first time. How would your group survive and flourish in the woods and prairies of Wisconsin?

Let's Wing It! - Birds

Grades 4-8

1.5 or 2 hours

Feathers, bones, feet and tails! Discover these feathered flyers from head to toe as we examine their adaptations and unique habits. Pay close attention as we soar with predators and their prey in this winged adventure. A visit from our teaching birds with the help of hands-on items will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends. Travel the trails as we take flight in search of these avian flyers. Finish off the program by discovering what a bird of prey enjoyed as its most recent meal.

Science in Nature Too

Grades 5-12

1.5 hours

Students discover nature using scientific method, reasoning and experiments to answer some of the questions they have about nature. Through the use of a variety of simple techniques and investigations, students will learn the answers to the seasons "How Come's."

Reading the Landscape /A Nature CSI

Grades 6-12

2 hours

Learn to read the land around you. Students work in teams to investigate different study areas, using field equipment and observation to uncover the fascinating relationships within our local ecology.

'Like' Retzer Nature Center on
Facebook & 'Follow'
@waukeshacoparks on Twitter



Retzer Nature Center Programs continued

Extend a Retzer Program

Add a 30 minute program to your class field trip to enhance a scheduled Nature Center Program. Add any At-School Recycling program for more "Extend a Retzer Program" opportunities (see page 14). Recycling programs are FREE.

Create A Critter

Grades 1-6 30 minutes

Create a make-believe critter using the components of habitat: water, food, shelter, and space. Let your imagination run wild!

Web of Life (NEW)

Grades 1-6 30 minutes

Make physical connections between living things within a common ecosystem and watch as a web of life emerges! Game will be related to the main program selected.

Energy From the Earth!

Our Geothermal Heating and Cooling System, and How It Works

Grades 3-12+ 30 minutes

Discover how we get energy from the earth, and use it to heat and cool our building! This program includes an informational PowerPoint, a tour of our geothermal heat pumps and pipe manifold room, and a chance to operate our working geothermal model (a table-top heat pump that blasts out cold or hot air without burning any fuel).

Biodiversity Game

Grades 4-8 30 minutes

Wrap up your program with this interactive game as students learn about the complex web created around the diversity of a habitat. Numbers do matter in this game as we uncover the different species found or observed.

At-School Retzer Programs - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

\$75 per 1 hour program (includes mileage charge) • Maximum of 30 students per program

Nature Storytime

Grades 4K - 1 1 hour

Have one of our naturalists visit your school, bringing a variety of hands on nature objects for your students to explore. All nature storytime programs include a children's book and craft centered around a theme from nature. See page 5 for available storytime programs.

Creature Features/Animal Adaptions - Indoor Program

Grades 4K-8 1 hour

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation. Program content will be adjusted per grade level.

Who's There? - Indoor Program

Grades 4-6 1 hour

Decipher these feathered flyers from head to toe as we uncover their fascinating adaptations and unique habitats. A visit from our teaching birds and hands on objects will assist in this exploration of our feathered friends.



Professional Development Opportunity for Teachers



Water Education for Teachers

Project WET Training Session

Tuesday, August 18 from 9:00-3:00 (registration at 8:45 a.m.)

Location: Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188

Course Fee: \$25.00

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is hands-on activities to learn about water designed and tested by teachers. Best of all, Project WET is fun! In this workshop, we will focus on storm water and how it impacts the environment. Spend a day at Retzer Nature Center:

- Learning how to use the hands on learning activities including water quality testing and macro-invertebrate sampling
- Sharing ideas and tips with other teachers
- Learning about finding and utilizing local program resources

The \$25 workshop fee covers all program materials, morning break and beverages, and the project WET guidebook—please bring your own bag lunch.

Call 262-970-6680 to register.

Please register by August 10th, 2015.

Agenda

9:00 Icebreaker and Introductions

9:30 WET activities

11:30 Finding your way through the WET guide

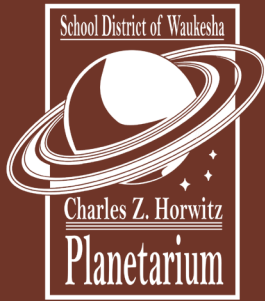
11:45 Correlating activities to the standards

12:00 Working lunch—activity intros

1:00 More WET activities

2:30 Finding and using local resources –Enviroscape model and more

2:50 Wrap up and evaluations



**Contact Retzer Nature Center
at 262-970-6680 for further
details and availability of the
following programs.**

The planetarium is a multi-media sky and space theater located inside Retzer Nature Center. The main instrument, a Spitz 512 Star Projector, projects an image of the day or night sky on the underside of a dome-shaped ceiling. The Planetarium serves as a resource of current trends in astronomy for students, teachers, and the community.

Field Trips

**The Planetarium is located inside Retzer Nature Center at
S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha**

Reservations for 2016 programs begin 9/1/2015

All full-length shows are an 1 hour long unless otherwise noted. The shows include a brief tour of the current evening sky and a "Feature" program of your choice. All Planetarium shows can be booked as a combination with a Retzer Nature Center program.

Highlights of your sky tour include; finding your directions, phases of the moon, locating visible planets and constellation identification.

Planetarium Fees:

(21 day lead-time required)

(One teacher is admitted free per 25 students)

Show Fee:

"Full Length Show" Base Fee: \$30.00

Up to first 10 persons, then
\$3.00 per person thereafter

"Extended Show" Base Fee : \$50.00

Up to first 10 persons, then
\$5.00 per person thereafter

Chaperones: Guidelines

Planetarium: 1 teacher per 25 students (chaperones pay admission fee for shows)

Combination Program Planetarium & Nature Center: Follow Nature Center Chaperone requirements (chaperones attend for free)

Retzer Nature Center's/Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium's Cancellation Policy

If payment is not received at least 21 days in advance, the program will be cancelled.

If you cancel a program within 21 days of the program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the program fee, or issue a credit instead of a refund. Credit must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Feature Programs

The Skies Over Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood

Ages 3 - 4

♦Pre K

45 Minutes

This program uses the scenes and characters from the famous television show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" to introduce young students to the wonders of the day and night sky. A great sky and space experience.

(Retzer combination program option for this age group: Nature Storytime)

The Sky Tonight

Ages 4 - 6

♦Grade 1

Reach up and paint the sky blue, make a rainbow, sing a song about space, and clap to the music as we all meet Joe Star, Marsha Moon, and Mike Meteor in this fun, participatory sky theater program. A classic sky show!

(Retzer combination program option for this age group: Nature Storytime or Nature Discovery)

Our Place in Space

Grades 1 - 2

♦Grade 1

This award-winning, participatory children's planetarium show introduces jungle animals and a space crossword puzzle to unravel the wonders and the mysteries of the universe.

(Retzer combination program option for this age group: Nature Discovery)

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

Grades 2 - 4

♦Grade 3

This children's fantasy begins in the backyard, where two children build a rocket out of a refrigerator box. The rocket becomes magical and blasts off, taking the children on a fantastic journey past the Sun, Moon and planets. They return home safely having learned wonderful facts about our solar system.

3-2-1 Blastoff

Grades 3 - 5

This wonderful space adventure show transforms a space game into an exciting visual tour of the objects in our solar system. Audiences magically fly past the Sun, land on planets, fly through the rings of Saturn and return safely to earth. Don't miss it!

Honey, I Shrunk the Solar System

Grades 3 - 5

This solar system exploration show takes the audience on an imaginary bike ride past the Sun, Moon, and planets. Students help answer space questions along the way. Always a favorite!

A Solar System Adventure Tour

Grades 3 - 5

♦Grade 4

You won't believe how fun learning about the planets can be when you step aboard the "Star Traveler" spaceship on your interactive journey past the planets in our solar system.

Time Bandits

Grades 3 - 8

Our calendars and many of our methods of timekeeping are based on the motions of the Sun, Moon, and Earth. This fascinating show describes the astronomical reasons for modern-day timekeeping. It also presents many of the world's wonderful and elaborate mechanical clocks and how they work.

Nine Planets and Counting

Grades 4 - 6

See the most current images of the Sun, Moon, and planets in our Solar System. Find out why Pluto is now a "Dwarf Planet". This very beautiful show investigates the formation and the composition of our neighbors in space.

♦Planetarium Director's Best Choice for this grade level

Charles Horwitz Planetarium Programs continued

Starship Earth

Grades 4 - 8

This fast-paced astronomy presentation uses spectacular visuals to answer questions about our home planet, Earth. Views of Earth from space, reasons for the seasons, and Earth's place in the universe are explored.

Explorers of International Space Station

Grades 5 - 8

This program shows science research being done on the International Space Station. Communication, medical technology, and life aboard the space station are just some of the topics in this spectacular visual presentation.

Galileo

Grades 6 - 12

Recognized as one of the greatest scientists of all time, this show celebrates the astronomical contributions of Galileo. Brilliantly produced as a 400-year historical view of the world's greatest telescopes, this program is a "must-see" for middle and high school students.

Cosmic Colors

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 5

Sit back and explore how colors form a rainbow, create a red surface on Mars, and display the breathtaking Northern Lights. In this program, audiences learn how scientists use wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum to study the wonderful mysteries of deep space. An absolute classic!

Voyage to the Edge of the Universe

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 6

This spectacular sky show presents close-up views of the Sun, Moon and planets, then takes the audience into deep space to explore white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes. Also in this program, scientists explore some of the most current trends in human and robotic space exploration. This program meets state and national science education standards.

Blown Away, The Wild World of Weather

Grades 6 - 12

Experience our amazing world of weather as you ride out a thunderstorm, fall into a tornado, and view storms from space. This program studies the dynamics of the water cycle, cloud types, lightning and auroras. This program meets many of the goals and objectives of state and national science education standards.

Black Holes, Point of No Return

Grades 6 - 12

Scientists explain how stars are born, live out their lives, and die. Some of the most fascinating theories that astronomers develop are those involving the explosive deaths of massive stars. This program explores some of the strangest theoretical objects in the universe: white dwarfs, neutron stars, quasars, and black holes.

The Stargazer

Grades 6 - 12

♦Grade 8

Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura of the television series *Star Trek*) narrates this fascinating program about stars. "Stargazer" traces the life experiences of astronomy professor Dr. James Kaler. From childhood to adult, his love for the sky shows us that there is a "human" connection to the stars. Spectacular!

Extend Your Planetarium Show

Add one of the following options onto your Planetarium show.

OPTIONS:

1. "Make & Take" Astronomy Project
2. Add a second "Feature" program

♦Planetarium Director's Best Choice for this grade level



Waukesha County

**Contact the UW Extension
office at 262-548-7775
for further details and
availability of the following
program.**

At-School Program - We'll Come To Your Classroom!

\$75 per 1 hour program (includes mileage charge) • Maximum of 30 students per program

Dig Into Gardening, Nutrition & Reading

Grades 4K-5

1 hour

Lessons can include preparing a healthy snack, nutrition, and horticulture activities, creating a small container garden, reading garden and nutrition themed stories. These options can be selected *a la carte* for a tailored program that can enhance classroom core curriculum themes and lessons.





**Contact the Recycling office
at 262-896-8300 for further
details and availability of
the following programs.**

**All Recycling Programs are FREE and can be held at
Retzer Nature Center, at your school or as a Field Trip!**

At-Retzer and At-School Programs

Slurry, Sludge and Shred: Let's Make Paper!

Grades K-2

45-60 minutes

Does paper always have to be made from trees? How does it get recycled? We will make our own recycled paper, play a guessing game, feel paper made from other plants and take home a sample of paper made from elephant dung! See a short video of how paper is sorted at our new recycling plant!

Complements Foss Science Unit

Green & Healthy School Lunches & Snacks: Waste-free & Nutritious!

Grades K-2, 3-6

30 minutes

K-2: Our mascot, Recycle Raccoon, will star in a fun PowerPoint look at things we eat (or don't) at school, the waste created and where that waste goes. Learn about healthier choices & packing waste-free healthy food for fuel at school! Recycle Raccoon will show up at the end (optional) to share high-5s, hand out RR trading cards and take-home nutrition information from the UW-extension office!

3-6: Healthy & waste-free lunches go together! Let's look at things we eat (or don't) at school, the waste created and where that waste goes. Learn about healthier choices & packing waste-free healthy food for fuel at school! Find out the cost of your choices & the impacts. Share snack ideas & take home nutrition information from the UW-Extension office.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot!

Grades K-2, 3-4

30 minutes

K-2: Learn about the 4 "Rs". What goes in the recycling bin? Where do recyclables go? What do they become? Help sort recyclables like the workers at the recycling plant. Play a matching game. Feel a plastic bottle turned into fuzzy filling! See video clips of our new recycling facility in action! Take home a pencil made from old blue jeans. *Optional: a visit from Recycle Raccoon mascot.*

3-4: Learn about the 4 Rs in order of importance. Review new items that go in the bin, find out where they go and what they become. Do a waste sort. Watch a video clip of our new high-tech single-sort recycling facility in action! Discover the benefits of reducing waste and recycling, and the positive effects they have on our planet!

Rot is Hot! Composting

Grades K-2, 3-6 30-60 min.- Available in Spring/Fall

K-2: Hear a story about compost. Learn about nature's decomposers through a brief PowerPoint, video clips, and direct observation of live critters with magnifiers! Learn the 4 things that make compost happen. Play a "What Goes In?" game. *Optional: help create a compost pile at school!*

3-6: Learn about nature's decomposers through a brief PowerPoint, video clips and direct observation of live critters with magnifiers & microscopes! Learn the 4 things that make compost happen & what goes in the bin through interactive games. *Optional: start a compost pile at school!*

Waukesha County Recycling Programs continued

Wiggle with Worms/Vermicomposting

Grades K-2, 3-6

1 hour

K-2: Students will do hands-on learning of worm structure, behavior and needs, using magnifiers to observe both worms, their eggs and other fascinating decomposers that share their home! *Optional: Make a recycled, biodegradable seed pot to plant at home.*

3-6: Vermicomposting! Learn about nature's ultimate recyclers: worms! Students will observe, assess and discuss worm structure, behavior and needs with the aid of magnifiers and microscopes, along with locating worm eggs and the decomposers that share their home and job duties.

Field Trip

**The Materials Recycling Facility
1401 West Mount Vernon Avenue - Milwaukee, WI 53233**

Cost of bus trip is included for Green Schools

Tour of the Recycling Facility

Grades 5-12

1 hour (plus travel time)

Tour the Waukesha County/City of Milwaukee recycling facility. Observe the fascinating combination of physics, technology and workers sorting the new mix of recyclable materials before heading to market. Learn the details of what can be recycled, why some things cannot, who is buying each commodity and what it will become.

'Like' Waukesha County Recycles
on Facebook & 'Follow'
@WaukCntyRecycle on Twitter



Water Resources Programs

Contact the Water Resources office at 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of the following programs.

All Water Resources Programs are FREE and can be held at Retzer Nature Center, at your school or as a Field Trip!

At-Retzer and At-School Programs

Got Water?

Grades 4-12

45-60 minutes

Learn about the many aspects of water—groundwater, surface water, runoff and more, and how they are related. Learn where drinking water comes from and where it goes after we are done with it. Best of all, students come away with some simple actions they can take to help protect our water resources. If students prepare questions for a question/answer session, allow 60 minutes.

Get the “Dirt” on Soils

Grades 3-12

40-60 minutes

Activities are age dependent and may include learning about the soil profile, particle size, erosion, and texture. These activities are both visual and hands-on and may be a little messy or “dirty” and will need access to a sink and water.

Field Trip

Dragonflies, Damselflies and Scuds—Oh My!

Grades 3-12

45-60 minutes

This hands on activity is a great follow-up to the “Got Water?” program. Students participate in a watershed model to pollute the water and see how runoff carries the pollution to our local water bodies. Learn ways to prevent runoff pollution and observe live aquatic macro-invertebrates from a local stream to see the effects of population. Students learn to use a key to identify the macro-invertebrates, and calculate a biotic index for water quality.

River CSI—Who’s Polluting the Water

Grades 5-12

1 hour

Programming activities depend on age and number of students and time available. This may involve a number of different activities such as learning to key out and identify aquatic macro-invertebrates, measuring dissolved oxygen, measuring water clarity, and calculating biotic index. This activity can take place at Bethesda Park on the Fox River in Waukesha, Nixon Park on the Bark River in Hartland, or at a local water body (preferably a river or stream) near your school.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Contact the Environmental Health office at 262-896-8300 for further details and availability of the following programs.

All Environmental Health Programs are FREE!

At-School Programs

Animal Bite Prevention

Grades K-6

50 minutes

Find out about animal awareness, animal body language, and making wise choices while interacting with animals. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.

Humane Animal Education

Grades 3-10

50 minutes

Learn the legal definitions of humane and cruel behavior as they relate to animals. Specific case studies show how humane officers apply the laws. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.

Humane Animal Careers

Grades 3-10

25 minutes

Explore various careers that involve animals and the preparation required for each career. Electricity and a clear wall for projection are required for this program.

Food Safety

Grades 5-12

30-60 minutes

Become aware of food safety and the consequences of mishandling food. Hand washing is emphasized and interactive activities are available.

Drinking Water

Grades 5-12

30-60 minutes

Learn about where you get your water, what can be harmful in the water, and how to eliminate the dangers. Also find out what to search for at home to keep your water safe.





2015 Environmental Education Summer Programs



Program Fees at Retzer Nature Center: (21 day lead-time required)

Program Fee:	Chaperones: (Attend for free)	Traveling Program Fees:
1 Hour Program Base Fee: \$22.50 Up to first 10 students, then \$2.25 per student	Students Chaperones ≤ 10 2 11-20 3 21-30 4 Etc.	(30 children maximum per program.) \$75.00 per 1 hour program (price includes mileage charge) For Additional 1 hour: \$70 per hour.
1.5 Hour Program Base Fee: \$35.00 Up to first 10 students, then \$3.50 per student		

Retzer Nature Center's Cancellation Policy

If payment is not received at least 21 days in advance, the program will be cancelled. If you cancel a program within 21 days of the program date, we reserve the right to forfeit the program fee, or issue a credit instead of a refund. Credit must be redeemed within the same calendar year unless otherwise noted.

Field Trips to Retzer Nature Center

Retzer Nature Center - S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha

Call 262-970-6680 for more details and availability of the following field trips to Retzer Nature Center.

Tales On Trails (Storytime Hike)

Ages 3-6 1 hour or 1.5 hours with craft
This storytime hike is all about reading and roaming! Our Naturalists will conduct an outdoor nature hike and storytime designed to complement the selected theme.

A Bug's Life

Look under a rock or sweep a net. What do you see? Pill bugs, spiders, butterflies and more! Get down in the dirt and in the meadows and discover the world of crawly creatures.

Counting on Colors

Join the naturalist on a colorful exploration of the trails. Children will hunt for natural objects that will display colors on this rainbow adventure.

A Dandy Lion!

No pride for this lion. Join the naturalist as your journey from seed to flower in the life of a Dandelion and other flowering plants

Frog N' Around

Down to the pond we go in search of frogs. Use a net to catch one and discover cool adaptations these *slippery* amphibians display.

I Spy The World Around Me!

Ages 4-7 1 hour
Naturalists serve as guides and interpreters while children seek out natural treasures through variation of the game "I Spy." A collection of all the "I Spy" finds will return with you for added adventures.

Navigating Nature

Ages 4-12 1.5 hours
If you like scavenger hunts, this program is for you. Teams will solve clues and complete fun tasks as they navigate their way around the trails on this wild nature experience.

Trails of Memories

Ages 5-12 1 hours
Create a picture journal as we discover the wonders along the trails, over the prairie and through the woods, on this fun adventure.

Summer Programs continued

Down at the Pond

Ages 5-12

1.5 hours

Discover what lurks in the pond as we explore with nets to scoop up mud-covered critters, frogs, and other water creatures. This interactive program gives children a close-up examination of the pond's ecosystem. Program availability is dependent on water-level in the pond. Mud Risk: High (come prepared).

Created by Nature

Ages 6-12

1.5 or 2 hours

A naturalist will guide you along the trails on this artistic adventure. Children will collect a variety of natural items found along the trails to create a unique piece of artwork to take home.

Pick from the following topics:

- Leaves & Flowers
- Nature's Texture Collage
- Camouflaged Critters (New)

Animal Adaptations - Indoor Program

Ages 6-12

1.5 hours

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it survive as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation. *Also available as a traveling program.*

Free Recycling Programs at Retzer Nature Center presented by Recycling Staff

Call 262 896-8300 to book a program.

Rot is Hot! Composting

Ages 4-5

30 minutes

Ages 6 & up

1 hour

Learn about nature's decomposers through a brief PowerPoint, video clips and direct observation of the live critters with magnifiers. Learn the four things that make compost happen & what goes in the bin.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Ages 4 & up

30 minutes or 1 hour

Recycling staff will teach you all about the 3R's, landfills, composting, what to recycle and what happens to your recyclables.

Wiggle with Worms

Ages 4 -12

1 hour

Observe and examine nature's recyclers - worms! Discover how worm bodies work, how they behave and how they help nature. Make a recycled seed pot to take home and plant.

Hop, Crawl and Fly with Us

Ages 6-12

1.5 hours

Children explore the insect world using sweep nets, guide books, and hand lenses, then sample varied insect communities. Pull together your favorite bug features to build your own bug creation.

Traveling Programs - We'll Come to You!

Call 262-970-6680 to book these programs, unless otherwise noted.

Nature Tales

Ages 3-6

1 hour

Have one of our naturalists visit you, bringing a variety of hands-on nature objects for your children to explore. Each program includes: book and craft.

Pick from the following topics:

- A Day in the Life of a Worm
- Turtle Time
- A Bug's Life
- Fabulous Feathers

Creature Features

Ages 6-12

1 hour

Enjoy a visit from the Retzer teaching animals! See how an animal's physical and behavioral traits can help it to survive, as we explore the concepts of habitat and adaptation.

Who's There - Owls

Ages 6-12

1 hour

Discover Who's there as you learn fascinating facts about Owls in this nocturnal adventure. Take apart an owl pellet and reconstruct its most recent meal! Adaptations are a fun way to discover this hunter's unique lifestyle.

FREE Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rot!

Call 262-896-8300 to book this program.

Ages 4 and up

30 minutes

Learn about the 3 Rs, composting, what to recycle and what happens to your recyclables. See inside a landfill! Watch a video clip of the recycling facility in action!



Waukesha County
Department of
Parks and Land Use

Retzer Nature Center
514 W28167 Madison St.
Waukesha, WI 53188

